

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13134

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SOCIALIST SENATOR

REF: ROME 12290

1. EMBOFF MET WITH SENATOR AJELLO TO DISCUSS HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES (REFTEL) AND FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. AJELLO INTENDS TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON THE 9TH AND 10TH OF SEPTEMBER AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A FULL AND PRODUCTIVE SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON. HE HAS STAKED OUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS HIS MAJOR FIELD OF INTEREST IN THE SENATE AND WITHIN THE PSI PARTY APPARATUS. THE PSI HAS DIVIDED THEIR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION INTO THREE CATEGORIES: 1) THIRD WORLD; 2) EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND 3) MULTI-LATERAL AFFAIRS; NATO, ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, UN, ETC. AJELLO WILL BE HEADING THE LATTER AND CONSEQUENTLY HE IS GREATLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING US-EUROPEAN AND US-ITALIAN RELATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. AS A CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF FORMER PSI SECRETARY DE MARTINO, AJELLO EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE AT RECENT EVENTS WHICH LEAD TO DE MARTINO'S RESIGNATION. AS AJELLO HAD INDICATED TO EMBOFF BEFORE, HE HAD EXPECTED DE MARTINO TO BE REMOVED AS PARTY SECRETARY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR SINCE THE PSI ALSO NEEDS MEANINGFUL RENEWAL. AJELLO INDICATED THAT NEITHER HE NOR DE MARTINO ANTICIPATED THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A POWER PLAY BY THE LOMBARDIANI FACTION WHICH  
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WANTED TO MAKE DEMARTINO A SCAPEGOAT FOR THE PSI'S PRE-ELECTORAL

AND ELECTORAL MISTAKES AND TO INSERT HON. ANTONIO GIOLITTI AS SECRETARY. ONCE IT WAS EVIDENT THAT A CHANGE HAD TO BE MADE IMMEDIATELY, AJELLO EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION THAT CRAXI WAS ELECTED SECRETARY. HE CONCEDED THAT CRAXI OWES HIS SECRETARYSHIP TO MANCINI -- NONETHELESS, HE SAID, CRAXI IS THE PARTY'S BEST MAN FOR THE JOB AND HE FEELS THAT CRAXI WILL BE ABLE TO CONSOLIDATE HIS OWN POSITION AND STANDING WITHIN THE PARTY OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. IN THIS CONNECTION, AJELLO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT A NEW SIZEABLE "CENTER MAJORITY" WILL CONSOLIDATE AROUND CRAXI - AS HIGH AS 75 PERCENT OF THE PARTY. THIS "CENTER MAJORITY" WILL COME FROM VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE MANCIANI AND CRAXI'S AUTONOMISTI; ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE DE MARTIANI FACTION AND A FAIR PORTION FROM THE PSI LEFT WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE LED INTO THIS ALLIANCE BY GIOLITTI.

3. AJELLO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDABLE REGRET ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH DE MARTINO WAS DROPPED. HE INDICATED THAT, OF COURSE, DE MARTINO IS BITTER BUT THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE NAMED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY AT ITS OCTOBER PARTY CONGRESS. AJELLO HAS ALREADY MOVED CLOSE TO CRAXI AND HAS MADE HIS PEACE WITH DE MARTINO WHO, HE SAID, UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR MAKING CRAXI A STRONG NEW PARTY SECRETARY. THESE INTERNAL PSI POLITICAL MANEUVERS HAVE COMPLETELY FORESTALLED IMPORTANT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE UNDERWAY WITHIN THE PARTY AFTER THE PSI ELECTORAL DEFEAT OF JUNE 20. IN AJELLO'S VIEW IT WILL TAKE TIME BEFORE THE PARTY CAN RETURN TO CRITICAL POLICY REAPPROVAL SINCE THERE IS STILL A LOT OF POLITICAL JOCKYING GOING ON WITHIN THE PARTY.

4. REGARDING THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE PSI, AJELLO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT PERHAPS AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR THE PSI COULD RETURN INTO THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE DC, PROVIDED THAT THE PCI WOULD AGAIN ABSTAIN. AJELLO DID NOT EXPRESS MUCH OPTIMISM THAT THE PSI COULD EVER AGAIN REJOIN THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE DC ALONG THE LINES OF THE OLD CENTER LEFT. IF PCI PARTICIPATION COULD NOT BE ARRANGED IN SOME WAY, THE PSI WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST PCI ABSTENTION FOR IT TO ENTER THE GOVERNMENT.

5. REGARDING THE PSI'S LONG TERM POLICY OBJECTIVES, AJELLO FELT THE PARTY WAS COMMITTED TO THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT.  
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HE CONCEDED THAT THIS WAS A LONG TERM PROCESS. IN THE MORE IMMEDIATE FUTURE HE FELT THAT THE PARTY MUST USE ITS OWN VALID DEMOCRATIC AND WESTERN CREDENTIALS TO ENHANCE THE "DEMOCRATIZATION" OF THE PCI. IN AJELLO'S VIEW THE PSI IS THE LOGICAL PARTY TO ARTICULATE ISSUES THAT WILL FORCE THE PCI TO TAKE MORE AND MORE PUBLIC POSITIONS FAVORING ITALY'S POSITION IN THE WEST AND THE IDEALS OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY. HE FELT THERE ARE SINCERE AND COMMITTED "DEMOCRATS" IN THE

PCI LEADERSHIP BUT IT WAS TIME FOR THEM TO MAKE THAT CLEAR PUBLICLY AND NOT HIDE BEHIND THE ATTITUDES OF THE PCI'S MORE TRADITIONAL BASE.

6. COMMENT: AJELLO AT 40 IS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF THE SENATE. HE IS LONG-TIME CONTACT OF THE EMBASSY AND ONE WHO HAS BEEN WELL-DISPOSED TO THE U.S. HE IS BRIGHT AND INTELLIGENT AND HAS A FUTURE IN THE PARTY AND WILL BE CONCENTRATING HIS EFFORTS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS ONE OF 2 PSI MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. HIS RECENT VIEWS REGARDING THE PCI AND PSI-PCI RELATIONSHIP ARE DISTURBING TO US AND PROBABLY REFLECT THE INFLUENCE OF DE MARTINO'S MARKED SHIFT TO THE LEFT AS PARTY SECRETARY DURING THE PAST YEAR. AJELLO IS STILL AN OPEN-MINDED AND REASONABLE PERSON, WHO WE BELIEVE CAN BENEFIT BY EXPOSEURE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S THINKING REGARDING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS HERE. VOLPE

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